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SECRET.

B. 250A.

Treaty with the Idrisi Saiyid.

No. 33 A of 1915.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

SECRET.

War.

To the MOST HONOURABLE THE MARQUESS OF CREWE, K.G.,
His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Simla,

20th May 1915.

MY LORD MARQUESS,

With reference to your Lordship's telegram, dated the 17th February 1915, we have the honour to forward, for the consideration of His Majesty's Government, a copy of a letter¹ from our Political Resident at Aden, with which he submits a Treaty signed by himself and by the representatives of the Idrisi Saiyid, for the ratification of the Government of India.

2. This Treaty does not appear to have been very concisely or very clearly drafted, but the terms generally coincide with what your Lordship approved in your telegram of the 28th December 1914. The Idrisi, on his side, undertakes to make a pact of friendship between himself and the British Government, to attack and to endeavour to drive the Turks from their stations in the Yemen and to extend his territories at their expense, and at the same time to abstain from any hostile or provocative action against the Imam Yahya so long as the latter does not join hands with the Turks. The British Government, on their side, undertake to protect his territories from attack on the seaboard, to guarantee his independence in his own domain, and at the conclusion of the war to use diplomatic means to adjudicate between the rival claims of the Idrisi and the Imam. Further, they have no desire to enlarge their territories on Arabian soil but wish merely to see that the various Arab rulers live peaceably and amicably together, each in his own sphere. As a mark of appreciation of the work to be performed by the Idrisi Saiyid, the British Government have aided him with funds and munitions and undertake to give him further assistance in the prosecution of his campaign against the Turks, in accordance with the measure of the Idrisi's activities. Finally, the British Government agree as heretofore to give the Idrisi Saiyid full and free scope to trade and traffic between his ports and Aden.

3. The only point that appears to require definite qualification is the expression "Arabian soil" in Article 6, as this scarcely falls in with our position in Mesopotamia. If the words "Western Arabia" were substituted for "Arabian soil," this objection would be removed and our intentions would be sufficiently defined in the Treaty.

4. It might also perhaps be urged that by allowing the Idrisi under Article 3 to extend his territories and at the same time under Article 5 guaranteeing his independence hereafter, we may be bringing ourselves into an embarrassing position *vis-à-vis* other Arab Chiefs, but our position in

this matter is safeguarded by the condition that the extension of the Idrisi's territories should be at the expense of the Turks, and should he hereafter involve himself in a collision with other Arab Chiefs by an aggressive policy, we could point to this condition and disavow his action.

5. Further, it might have been desirable to insert a clause giving British and British Indian traders free access to the Idrisi's ports, but this might legitimately be held to be a corollary of the pact of friendship which it is the object of the Treaty to consolidate.

6. As any further assistance in funds or munitions to the Idrisi is explicitly to be in accordance with the measure of the Idrisi's activities, our responsibilities in this matter would appear to be sufficiently safeguarded.

7. We think, therefore, that, although the Treaty as drafted is open to objection on the ground that it is neither very clear nor very concise, it will, if the small amendment suggested in paragraph 3 above be effected, adequately meet the requirements of the situation. We would ask, therefore, for authority to ratify it as it stands subject to this qualification. To return it for extensive revision to our Political Resident would be to endanger the ultimate success of the negotiations, and would, at any rate, involve undesirable delay. If Your Lordship agrees, we should be glad of orders by telegraph.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) MY LORD MARQUESS.
HARDINGE OF PENSURST.
BEAUCHAMP DUFF.
R. W. CARLYLE.
S. A. IMAM.
W. H. CLARK.
R. H. CRADDOCK.
W. S. MEYER.
C. H. A. HILL.

No. C. 343, dated Aden Residency, the 1st May 1915 (Secret).

From Major-General D. G. L. Shaw, Political Resident, Aden, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department.

In sending you by this mail three copies of the Treaty signed by me and the Idrisi Saiyid for the ratification of the Government of India, I have the honor to state that the Idrisi representatives will leave to-morrow for their country. They appear to mean business.

2. There is little left to be said. Paragraph 5 is the most important one, and is in accord with the cipher instructions received from you.

3. Paragraph 7. The precise details of assistance in funds and munition is expressly omitted at the request of Saiyid Mustafa and is done to avoid wounding Arab susceptibilities. A receipt in full for assistance given has however been obtained. The concluding portion of this paragraph is very essential. Having begun a good work with so important a Chief, and one so inimical to everything Turkish, it will be necessary to prosecute the matter *à outrance*, but I was careful to insert the last nine words of the paragraph as showing the *quid pro quo* for which the Idrisi is responsible.

4. I would request that two ratified copies of the Treaty may be returned to me, one to be given to the Idrisi and the other for this office records.

This Treaty of Friendship and Goodwill is signed by Major-General D. G. L. Shaw, the Political Resident, Aden, on behalf of the British Government and by Saiyid Mustafa bin Saiyid Abdu'l 'Ali on the part of His

Eminence Saiyid Muhammad bin Ali bin Muhammad bin Ahmed bin Idris, the Idrisi Saiyid and Amir of Sabia and its environments.

2. Its main objects are to war against the Turks and to consolidate a pact of friendship between the British Government and the Idrisi Saiyid, above-mentioned, and his Tribesmen.

3. The Idrisi Saiyid agrees to attack and to endeavour to drive the Turks from their stations in the Yemen and to the best of his power to harass the Turkish troops in the direction of the Yemen and to extend his territories at the expense of the Turks.

4. The Saiyid's prime objective will be against the Turks only, and he will abstain from any hostile or provocative action against Imam Yahya so long as the latter does not join hands with the Turks.

5. The British Government undertakes to safeguard the Idrisi Saiyid's territories from all attack on the seaboard from any enemy who may molest him; to guarantee his independence in his own domain and at the conclusion of the war to use every diplomatic means in its power to adjudicate between the rival claims of the Idrisi Saiyid and the Imam Yahya or any other rival.

6. The British Government has no desire to enlarge its borders on Arabian soil but wishes solely to see the various Arab rulers living peacefully and amicably together each in his own sphere, and all in friendship with the British Government.

7. As a mark of its appreciation of the work to be performed by the Idrisi Saiyid, the British Government has aided him with both funds and munitions and will continue to assist him in the prosecution of the war so long as it lasts in accordance with the measure of the Idrisi's activities.

8. Finally, while maintaining a strict blockade on all Turkish ports in the Red Sea, the British Government has for some months past been giving the Idrisi Saiyid full and free scope to trade and traffic between his ports and Aden, and this concession the British Government, in token of the friendship existing, will continue uninterruptedly to maintain.

9. This Treaty will be held to be valid after its ratification by the Government of India.

Signed this day Friday, the thirtieth of April 1915, A.D., corresponding with the fiftieth of Jamad Shani 1333 Hijra.

(Sd.) D. G. L. SHAW, <i>Major-General,</i> <i>Political Resident, Aden.</i>	(Sd.) i.e., SAIYID MUSTAFA BIN SAIYID ABDU'L 'ALI on behalf on the Idrisi Saiyid.
(Sd.) H. F. JACOB, <i>Lieut.-Col.,</i> <i>First Assistant Resident.</i>	(Sd.) i.e., SHEIKH MUHAMMAD BIN AWAD BA SAHL.
(Sd.) C. R. BRADSHAW, <i>Major,</i> <i>General Staff Officer, Aden Brigade.</i>	